



King County

Proclamation

WHEREAS, tuberculosis remains a disease of public health significance that infects more than 1.5 billion people worldwide, and this year alone eight million people will develop the disease; and

WHEREAS, while tuberculosis is a preventable disease, at the local level there are currently over 250 cases of active tuberculosis in Washington State and over 100 cases in King County; and

WHEREAS, the costs for treatment can be staggering, with more than \$10,000 public health dollars spent for each case of active tuberculosis and in contact investigation to stop the spread of the disease in Washington State, and further, once a case of active tuberculosis develops multi-drug resistance, it costs up to \$250,000 to cure just one case of tuberculosis; and

WHEREAS, according to a Global Health Initiative survey of 11,000 businesses, 32 percent of companies world-wide expect tuberculosis to impact their businesses within the next five years, and it is estimated that approximately three to four months of work time will be lost for each employee who develops active tuberculosis; and


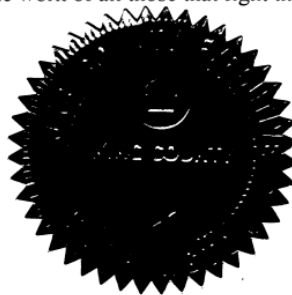
WHEREAS, organizations around the world, including the American Lung Association of Washington are coming together to commemorate World TB Day to raise international awareness about this disease; provide opportunities to support individuals, families and communities affected by this disease; and to renew our commitment to prevent its spread; and

WHEREAS, healthy people and healthy communities are the centerpiece of a strong and vibrant society, and Martin Luther King, Jr. County commends the American Lung Association of Washington for its ongoing efforts to work strategically with public health agencies, medical providers, and community groups to provide education and support to raise awareness of the seriousness of tuberculosis and to emphasize the importance of early detection, prevention and treatment;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron Sims, Executive of Martin Luther King, Jr. County, do hereby proclaim Friday, March 24, 2006 to be

World TB Day

in Martin Luther King, Jr. County. I encourage all residents to join me in learning more about this disease and in supporting the work of all those that fight this illness.



Ron Sims
King County Executive